Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 050715Z OCT 74 FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7081 INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST AMDSBASSY MOSCOW 1174 AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, CZ, YU

SUBJECT: RUDE PRAVO EDITORIAL ON AFTERMATH OF COMINFORMIST

TRIALS

- 1. PERHAPS THE MOST NOTABLE OF RUDE PRAVO OFFERINGS THIS WEEK ON THE COMINFORMIST TRIALS IN YUGOSLAVIA WAS A DIRECT EDITORIAL SLAP OCTOBER 3 AT "PROVOCATIONS BY WESTERN PROPAGANDA AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" EVIDENT IN THE "NEW POISIONOUS CAMPAIGN" AGAINST THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM. EXPRESSING INCREDULITY THAT ONE MIGHT SURMISE INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ENTIRELY YUGOSLAV MATTER BY PRAGUE AND BUDAPEST, MUCH LESS MOSCOW, THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED SUCH ACCUSATIONS TO THOSE IN THE PAST WHO ALLEGEDLY RELISHED THE POSSIBILITIES OF MINORITIES' DISSENT WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA. THE AUTHORS OF THE "SLANDEROUS ATTACKS" ON RELATIONS AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, SAID THE RP EDITORIAL, OBVIOUSLY WERE ATTEMPTING "TO DRIVE A WEDGE AND CREATE TENSIONS"BETWEEN NATIONS AND STATES.
- 2. THIS PIECE ON THEYUGOSLAVIA TRIALS IS THE ONLY EDITORIAL RUDE PRAVO HAD PRINTED. IT WAS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED BY SEVERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARTICLES, ONE EACH DAY FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS, NONE

OF WHICH CAME DOWN QUITE AS STRONGLY AS DID THE EDITORIAL
ON WESTERN REPORTS OF THE YUGOSLAV AFFAIR. IN ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER, ALL HAD CAUTIONED THAT THE TRIALS DID NOT
REPRESENT ANYTHING CLOSE TO A CRISIS AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.
AN ARTICLE IN THE OCTOBER 4 RUDE PRAVO, UNSIGNED AND ENTITLED
"A CATEGORICAL DISCLAIMER," ATTEMPTS AS DID THOSE PRECEDING
IT TO LAY TO REST ANY THOUGHT THAT LASTING PROBLEMS WILL
REMAIN AS A RESULT OF THE TRIALS, ALSO DENYING THAT ANY
SOCIALIST COUNTRY DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM YUGOSLAVIA.

3. OUR SOURCES, CZECH, SOCIALIST AND WESTERN, WHILE OFFERING VARIOUS ACCOUNTS OF WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED IN THE COMINFORMIST AFFAIR, ALL AGREE THAT THE CZECHSLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES WERE INVOLVED. ONE THESIS WE PICKED UP FROM A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT AND ECHOED BY A NATO EMBASSY COLLEAGUE WAS THAT THE CZECH AND HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION WAS PASSIVE, IN THAT THE TWO PARTIES IGNORED RATHER THAN ENCOURAGED YUGOSLAV DISSIDENTS ON THEIR TERRITORIES.

PERRY

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